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## Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who causes our hearts to overflow with beautiful thoughts, You are so glorious, so majestic. We think of the gifts of life, of love, of meaningful work. We think of the blessings of the gift of friendship, of family, of fertile fields. We think of the power of Your throne which endures forever and ever. Grant that these beautiful thoughts will be transformed into loving service to those who need it most. Inspire our Senators to labor for a harvest that will transform lives and provide a shield for freedom. Teach them to disagree without being disagreeable and to safeguard friendships regardless of the issues. May they seek to understand before being understood. Make them quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. Give them the wisdom to love what is right and hate what is wrong. May their work so honor Your name that nations will praise You forever. We pray this in Your blessed Name.

Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today we open with a 1-hour period for morning business. At 2 today, we will resume consideration of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. As we announced at the close of last week, Members can expect one or two votes this evening in relation to the appropriations bill. Chairman COCHRAN will be here when we resume the bill, and we will be consulting with the two managers and the Democratic leader as to exactly what votes we can expect today at approximately 5:30.

On Friday, cloture was filed on the two pending amendments relating to AgJOBS. In addition to these two cloture votes, we have cloture votes scheduled on the Mikulski amendment on visas, as well as the underlying bill. To remind all of our colleagues, the two AgJOBS cloture votes are scheduled for 11:45 a.m. tomorrow. The cloture vote on the Mikulski amendment and the cloture vote on the bill will occur later tomorrow afternoon. I hope we can invoke cloture on the bill tomorrow. That will be the only way to ensure that we finish our work this week on this extremely important funding legislation. Therefore, Senators can expect votes each day this week as we work our way through the issues related to the supplemental appropriations bill.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

### BLUE CARD ALTERNATIVE TO H-2A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an amendment that I, along with my friend from Arizona, Senator JON KYL, have introduced. This amendment represents a practical alternative to S. 359, which has been introduced by Senator CRAIG, commonly known as the AgJOBS bill. My hometown of Moultrie, GA, is located in Colquitt County. It is one of the most diversified agricultural counties in the country and often referred to as the most diversified agricultural county east of the Mississippi River. During my 26 years of practicing law, before I came to Congress I represented farmers who grow almost every kind of crop there is. These farmers, as do most farmers in America, depend very heavily upon migrant labor for their means of planting, harvesting, and getting their crops to market.

Up the road from my hometown is the Georgia peach growing area, which also produces most of the pecans that are grown in the country today. So, firsthand, I recognize the need for a stable and legal agricultural workforce.

From my perspective as a former member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and my present position as chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee, I understand that our country's need for a secure and reliable domestic food supply is an issue of national security. This legislation addresses those needs without providing amnesty to our current illegal agricultural workforce. Instead, we take a two-pronged approach. First, this legislation modernizes and streamlines the current H-2A program. Secondly, it creates a temporary agricultural guest worker program called the blue card program.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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